

- Town Board meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at the Town Hall located in Big Lake Community Lions Park, 21960 Co. Rd. 5, Big Lake, MN.
- Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Fridays 8:00 a.m. to noon

# Town of Big Lake News

## Ditches

(Submitted by Supervisor Jim Stahlmann)

Here in Big Lake Township we are proud of our very high quality paved town roads. Your Town Supervisors and staff spend a substantial amount of time inspecting, analyzing and ordering necessary repairs to insure that we continue to have the best possible streets. One of the ways we can keep our costs of maintaining roads low is to continue to have healthy and active ditches.

Keeping our ditches clear and flowing is one of the most important ways of keeping our roads safe and financially sound. It is the responsibility of all of us to keep our ditches and driveway culverts clean. We should all help and here is why:

**Safety:** Mowed ditches keep sight lines clear. Cars leaving driveways can better be seen by traffic, pedestrians and children on bikes.

**Water Flow:** Mowed ditches keep the water flowing whether you see the water or not. Too much standing water in a plugged ditch is not only a great breeding ground for mosquitoes, but the water will creep under the road bed. Water under the road is the number one reason for potholes

and the breakdown of the road's edge.

**Even Snow Melt:** By not plowing snow deliberately into the ditch, the spring thaw is less prone to ice and snow dams that back up the water. This is especially true for plowing snow across the street into the ditch on the other side. (See item 6 in the snow article below.)

**Expense:** Each year our roads cost us just over one million dollars to maintain. The expenses include seal-coating, patching, snow plowing and mowing the ditches of the areas that are not mowed.

So, it is important that we all do our share by keeping the ditches in front of our property clear of tall grass, tree saplings and noxious weeds. We can all save ourselves substantial increases in taxes by simply taking care of our own front yards.



Area Schools will be starting  
Tues. & Wed., Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>.



Please be aware of children walking and riding bikes to school

August 2011

On the Web at

[www.biglaketownship.com](http://www.biglaketownship.com)

and an increase in traffic as buses begin their routes.

Thank you



## Town Hall Rental

Looking for a place to have a family reunion, picnic, graduation or just get together?

Reservations are available for the rental of the Town Hall meeting room, kitchen & indoor restroom facilities. Rental fees are \$200. or \$300. depending on the size of the room requested. A damage deposit of \$100. or \$200.

(depending upon the size of the room rental) is also required. The damage deposit is returned if the rented area is cleaned and there are no damages. No alcohol is allowed anywhere in the park. The building is a smoke-free facility. In an effort to have the facility available for monthly youth and non-profit organization meetings, rental reservations are taken no more than 90 days in advance. To rent the Town Hall, contact the Clerk's Office at 763-263-8111.



**Thank you for your cooperation during our road repair projects. Several needed improvements were made this summer!**

## **Sherburne County Compost Drop-Off Sites**

The Sherburne County Municipal Recycling Board has announced the 2011 compost site user fees. As of May 2, 2011 Sherburne County residents can use the four compost sites for free. Commercial users will be required to purchase a permit for \$200. per vehicle; and, non-residents \$50.

Compost sites are located in the: City of Becker, City of Elk River, City of Zimmerman and the City of Big Lake.

**The City of Big Lake Compost Site is located at:** The City of Big Lake Maintenance Building: 18041-198th Avenue.

**Directions:** From downtown Big Lake, take Highway 10 east to County Road 43, turn right (south) on County Road 43 to the "Yard Waste Composting" sign (will be on the left before the railroad tracks), turn left (east) and follow the driveway to the compost facility site.

**Hours:** 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., 7 days a week, year-round.

The following are accepted at the Compost facility:

- Grass Clippings
- Leaves
- Brush under 2" in diameter, separated from grass clippings and leaves.

- Brush logs over 2" in diameter, cut into 2 foot lengths and stacked in the designated area.
- Christmas trees

**Note:**

- Proof of residency required.
- No trash bags shall be left at the site.
- No yard waste shall be left outside the facility.
- Facility will be closed during inclement weather.
- Composted material may be removed from site at no charge.

Please report any garbage dumping to City Hall (263-2107)

**The City of Elk River Compost Site is located at:** The City of Elk River Public Works Garage - 19000 Proctor Road.

**Hours:** The site is open seven days a week from dawn until dusk.

Unload into the properly marked areas and remember to take your lawn bags back home with you.

**Items accepted include:**

- leaves
- grass clippings
- sod
- weeds
- brush
- firewood

**Free pickup when available**

**includes:**  
compost  
wood chips  
firewood

  
**Unnecessary Taxpayer Expense**

**Vandalism of Township properties, traffic control &**

## **street signs and the illegal dumping of garbage & waste in the Township road right of way are all avoidable taxpayer expenses. If you witness an act of vandalism, contact the Sherburne County Sheriff's Department at 763-765-3500. Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event**

Residents of Sherburne County still have three (3) opportunities to dispose of their unwanted or unused household hazardous waste products that are being stored inside your homes and garages. Items accepted for free at HHW Events include paints, stains, lawn/garden chemicals, aerosol containers, mercury, lead, fuel, oil, solvents, adhesives, cleaners, fluorescent bulb (limit 10 bulbs per vehicle please), 20# or less propane cylinders, agricultural pesticides and fertilizers. If you have an item that isn't listed please call John Exner with the Sherburne County Zoning Department at 763-765-4450.

The remaining Three (3) events will be held at the following locations:

- August 29th at the Sherburne County Fairgrounds in Elk River from 2pm-6pm
- August 30th at the Sherburne County Fairgrounds in Elk River from 2pm-6pm
- September 20th at KJ's Refuge Bar & Grill in Orrock from 3pm-6pm

Driving directions are located on the Zoning Departments website at:

www.co.sherburne.mn.us/zoning/s  
w/hhw.php

Please be advised, HHW  
Collection Events are for residential  
households only. Business and  
Commercial Wastes will not be  
accepted.



## Free Prescription Drug Take Back Program Available

Sheriff Joel Brott has announced  
that the Sheriff's Office has  
partnered with the Sherburne  
County Zoning Department and the  
Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)  
for a prescription drug take back  
program. The partnership is a result  
of increasing concerns over the  
pharmaceutical pollution of surface  
waters, accidental poisonings and  
illegal drug use.

A drop box for unused or unwanted  
substances has been installed  
inside Door G of the Sheriff's  
Department at the Sherburne  
County Government Center ,  
13880 Business Center Drive, Elk  
River and is available Monday –  
Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Both controlled (Prescription) and  
non-controlled (Non-Prescription)  
substances are accepted. The  
program is anonymous and  
confidential. Persons disposing of  
medications should remove all  
personal information from the bottle  
before placing them in the drop  
box.

For more information, please  
contact the Sherburne County

Sheriff's Office or the Sherburne  
County Zoning Office.



**Make sure you have your house  
number prominently displayed  
in accordance with Ordinance 8  
in order to avoid delays of  
emergency services reaching  
your home. This is especially  
important if your house is in a  
remote area or you have a long  
or shared driveway – more than  
one sign may be required!**



The Town Road Committee and  
contracted plowing company make  
every effort to provide a high level of  
service when it comes to  
snowplowing. Residents are  
reminded that it is a violation of Town  
Ordinance #7 to park on or along any  
Town Road after a snowfall. Parking  
on the street or in the right of way is  
prohibited for the purpose of snow  
removal. Any vehicle owner in  
violation of this ordinance is subject  
to misdemeanor charges and fines.

### **Lawn Irrigation System Damage**

The Town will not be responsible  
for damage to any underground  
lawn sprinklers that are located in  
the town road right-of-way (33' from  
the centerline of the road.)  
Homeowner's are responsible for  
their irrigation systems and should  
consider relocating the irrigation  
heads within their property lines.

Do Not Place Garbage Containers  
on the Public Roadway. Containers  
must be placed at the driveway  
entrance, not on the road.

According to the Township's Snow  
and Ice Control Policy:

1. Snowplowing will generally be  
done when there is an accumulation  
of two inches or more.
2. Ice control (sanding) will take  
place when travel is **seriously**  
affected using normal winter driving  
care. Because of environmental  
concerns, chemical use on roads will  
be limited to preventing dangerous  
driving conditions.
3. Snowplowing and ice control  
operations will cease if severe wind  
or cold endangers the maintenance  
personnel.
4. Plowing and sanding are  
scheduled to have roads in the best  
travel condition during heavy use  
periods.
5. Roads are classified as to  
function and use---collector streets (to  
county roads and state highways) will  
be plowed first; residential streets are  
second priority and cul de sacs will be  
plowed last.
6. It is against the law for private  
snowplows to move snow across, or  
deposit snow on public roads. The  
placing of snow and ice would be  
considered a problem if it were  
deemed a safety hazard on the  
traveled right of way, and could  
cause property damage and/or  
visibility problems. If the Town must  
remove snow placed in roads, it will  
assess the cost to the property  
owner. (MN § 160.27 Sub. 5 and MN  
§ 169.42).
7. Mailbox damage – the  
Township will consider mailbox  
claims only if the snowplowing  
equipment physically hits the  
mailbox or post and only if the box  
conformed to the Town of Big Lake  
Mailbox Post Installation Ordinance

2001-2. Claims must be filed within 24 hours of the incident. If you live on a Township road, call the Town Clerk at 763-263-8111. If you live on a County road, call the Sherburne County Highway

Department at 763-765-3300 or 800-594-5208.



Sherburne County has installed a new phone system, which has changed

phone numbers for all departments. The new main # is 763-765-3000. A list of all department numbers are available at: [www.co.sherburne.mn.us](http://www.co.sherburne.mn.us)

## **BIG LAKE TOWNSHIP & CITY DOG VACCINATION AND LICENSING CLINIC**

The Annual Big Lake Dog Vaccination Clinic will be **Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** at Lions Community Park, 21960 County Road 5 (garage).

**ALL DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH!  
ONLY HEALTHY DOGS WILL BE VACCINATED.**

A Dog License is required to be eligible for the discounted vaccinations.



The \$10.00 license fee is valid for the lifetime of the dog.

City and Township residents will be able to purchase a dog license on site on Saturday 10th.

Barrington Oaks Veterinary Hospital, Elk River, will provide vaccination services at this event.

**CASH PAYMENT REQUIRED -  
NO CHECKS, DEBIT OR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED FOR VACCINATIONS.**

One year Rabies Vaccination: \$ 8.00

Canine DHPP\* Vaccination: \$12.00

Canine Lymes Vaccination: \$ 22.00

(\*Note: DHPP includes Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvo, Parainfluenza.)

Note: These prices are good ONLY at the Sept. 10, 2011 Dog Vaccination Clinic for Big Lake Twp.

**For information contact Big Lake Township at 763-263-8111**

